



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO –  
Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

May 3, 2004

*Note: the last situation report was dated March 18, 2004.*

**BACKGROUND**

Since 1998, regional armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has claimed 3.3 million lives and displaced 3.4 million residents. In August 1999, the government of the DRC (GDRC); the governments of Angola (GOA), Namibia, Rwanda (GOR), Uganda, and Zimbabwe; and the main Congolese opposition groups—the Rwanda-backed Congolese Democratic Assembly (RCD) and the Uganda-backed Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC)—signed the Lusaka Peace Accords, agreeing to cease fire and to discuss peace implementation via the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD). In November 1999, the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) arrived to monitor the cease-fire and assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and repatriation (DDR) of foreign forces. After the ICD concluded in April 2003, President Joseph Kabila promulgated the transitional constitution, scheduled to govern the DRC until national elections in June 2005. In July 2003, signatories and civil society began to share four vice-presidential positions and other key government posts.

Although peace prospects have improved at the national level, the transitional government has yet to extend its authority to eastern DRC. Rwandan Armed Liberation Forces (FDLR)/Interahamwe (Rwandans implicated in the 1994 genocide who subsequently fled to eastern DRC), Mai-Mai factions (bands of local Congolese originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation), and, in some areas, ethnic or clan-based local armed opposition groups continue to threaten security. During the summer of 2003, in response to increased ethnic violence and widespread population displacement in Ituri District, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) strengthened MONUC's mandate and increased its authorized force from 8,700 to 10,800 troops. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 24 million people in the DRC remain vulnerable due to the effects of conflict and continued insecurity. Poverty is widespread, and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting. Sporadic insecurity restricts access to agricultural land and traditional markets and prevents the large-scale return of displaced populations.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	3,413,700	UN OCHA (March 2004)
Refugees in the DRC	234,172	UNHCR (December 2003)
DRC Refugees	380,000	UNHCR (March 2004)

**Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC .....\$11,456,199**  
**Total FY 2004 USAID Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC.....\$47,117,742**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

***DRC Nationals in Angola Forced to Repatriate.***

According to UN OCHA, in April 2004 the GOA expelled up to 100,000 Congolese nationals working illegally in Angola's diamond mines for the past two decades. Each day an estimated 2,500 DRC nationals were forced across the border to remote towns in Bandundu and Western Kasai provinces. According to a USAID/OFDA field assessment, the returnees are generally in good physical condition, but many report being abused by GOA authorities. Most returnees are living with relatives, although an estimated 7,000 people are staying in public areas. UN OCHA, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) have responded with food, soap, blankets, and high-energy biscuits. Médecins Sans Frontières-Belgium is providing free medical treatment. As most returnees will likely proceed to

their hometowns, the humanitarian community is limiting support to avoid the creation of IDP camps. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) voiced concerns after some returnees attacked Angolan refugee shelters near Kahemba, DRC. USAID/OFDA Field Representatives continue to monitor the situation.

***Disturbance in Kinshasa.*** During the early morning hours of March 28, a small group of assailants composed of a exiled Mobutu-era soldiers and armed factions exiled in Congo-Brazzaville briefly attacked several military installations in downtown Kinshasa. Control of the city seems never to have been seriously threatened, however, and within hours Congolese police and armed forces were able to subdue attackers, permitting activity in the capital to return to normal by noon of the same day. According to USAID/OFDA field reports, the objectives of the attack remain

unclear, though it is thought that, in addition to liberating some prisoners, the group hoped that disgruntled soldiers in the military installations would join their movement and create a large disturbance that might eventually succeed in bringing down the transitional government.

***Insecurity persists, despite full deployment of MONUC Ituri Brigade.*** From November 2003 to March 2004, the MONUC Ituri Brigade extended its reach beyond Bunia and into seven towns within Ituri District, culminating in the March 2004 deployment to Aru and Mongbwalu towns. According to MONUC, the brigade's deployment has enabled numerous IDPs, including an estimated 10,000 from Fataki town, to return home. However, beginning in December 2003 and continuing into April 2004, MONUC military observers and peacekeepers are increasingly the target of attacks. In one case, residents of Mahagi town protected themselves from Nationalist Integrationist Front (FNI) forces. Although a MONUC contingent now regularly patrols Mahagi to prevent future attacks, this incident reinforces the perception of Ituri residents that MONUC cannot protect them.

***FDLR and Mai-Mai forces destabilize North and South Kivu provinces.*** Attacks by FDLR forces and internal struggles between Mai-Mai factions continue to threaten security and access to vulnerable populations in North and South Kivu provinces. In Masisi, North Kivu Province, FDLR and Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) clashed in late March, causing new population displacement. On April 12, unknown armed elements burned 150 homes and killed 25 people in Lutweki, 25 km northwest of Masisi toward Walikale. In Walikale, Mai-Mai forces pillaged three villages along the road to Goma on March 23, causing several hundred residents to flee temporarily. According to UN OCHA, insecurity may delay plans to rehabilitate the Walikale-Goma road.

In Bunyakiri, northern South Kivu Province, families displaced by FDLR attacks in late December 2003 and January 2004 have begun slowly to return home. However, the towns of Rambo and Cifunzi, south of Bunyakiri, continue to host IDPs from the Kalonge area who fled previous FDLR attacks. In late March, FDLR attacks near Cibingu, outside of Kabare town, led 12,500 people to flee to Cirhunga town. Outside of Kalehe, along the road north from Bukavu to Goma, most women and girls now commute nightly to villages along the road to avoid rape. According to UN OCHA, FDLR forces have increased their presence in central Mwenga and Walungu territories, although in March and April, the FAC began attacking their positions. In response to a FAC offensive in bush areas northwest of Uvira in mid-April, a large FDLR group successfully captured the town of Lemera causing the displacement of an additional 15,000 people to more secure areas along the Ruzizi Plain road.

South of Uvira, in the Baraka-Fizi area, Mai-Mai forces continue to erect roadblocks, hindering the travel of local populations and humanitarian organizations. As a result, repair of the Mutambala bridge has been delayed, and USAID/OFDA partner Action Against Hunger-USA has been forced to postpone agricultural assistance to Fizi.

***MONUC Kivu Brigade approaches full strength.*** MONUC's 3,500 strong Kivu Brigade is scheduled to be entirely deployed by May 2004. The forward operations headquarters will be based in Bukavu, while support elements will remain in Kindu, Maniema Province. According to MONUC, Uruguayan forces have deployed to Uvira, South Kivu Province, and South African forces are scheduled to deploy to Rutshuru, northeast of Goma, North Kivu Province. The brigade's accelerated deployment is in response to insecurity in Bukavu resulting from a February 2004 disagreement among civilian and military leaders in the transitional government.

***MONUC repatriates foreign armed groups.*** On March 24, MONUC announced that a total of 9,775 Rwandan, Ugandan, and Burundian combatants and their families had been repatriated through the DRC's DDR process to date. Rwandans represent the largest group, with 6,185 persons repatriated, of whom 3,032 are civilian dependents. On April 11, Colonel Evariste Murenzi, one of FDLR's leaders, returned to Rwanda after resisting repatriation for nearly a decade. MONUC estimates that 8,000 FDLR soldiers, along with their families, are still resisting repatriation, many due to intense pressure from hardline leaders.

***Renewed insecurity along Rwandan border.*** In April 2004 UN OCHA reported that FDLR forces increased their presence in the Rutshuru area north of Goma along the Rwandan border. According to GOR authorities, on April 8, an estimated 200 FDLR forces attempted to attack a border village in Rwanda, but were forced back across the border by Rwandan Defense Forces (RDF) troops. On April 21, MONUC peacekeepers reported that 400 RDF soldiers were deployed in Runyoni, Rutshuru territory, though the GOR continues to deny any presence in DRC. The GDRC has demanded the immediate withdrawal of RDF soldiers and has requested that the UNSC convene to discuss the current situation.

***Uneasy truce holds in Maniema Province.*** Since January 2004, an uneasy truce has prevailed in Kindu, Maniema Province, enabling Mai-Mai groups to travel freely to Kindu town while IDPs return slowly to the countryside. However, USAID/OFDA field reports indicate that the current calm is inherently unstable. While payment to Mai-Mai, ex-ANC, and ex-FAC soldiers currently helps preserve peace, the GDRC has made very little progress in integrating the various armed groups under a single command structure and

demobilizing those who will not be part of the new national army. More than 9,000 Mai-Mai soldiers are estimated to be assembled to date (3,000 in Kindu, 4,000 in Lubutu, and 2,000 in Punia), only a minority of whom have been disarmed or reintegrated.

Several incidents have threatened security in Maniema Province in recent weeks. According to USAID/OFDA field reports, a personal disagreement in March led Mai-Mai forces briefly to take over Kindu town, and Mai-Mai groups awaiting demobilization in Lubutu have reportedly returned to their former positions. In early April, UN OCHA reported clashes between ex-RCD and FDLR forces in Kama. Renewed fighting threatens to undermine the security of local populations and IDPs who remain concentrated in town centers.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) established an office in Kindu in January and has begun implementing a USAID/OFDA-funded project to assist IDP populations in the Kindu area to return to their home villages. CRS is currently distributing kits containing kitchen and gardening tools to returnee families. CRS is scheduled to organize seed fairs, distribute hoes, and work with communities to repair roads and bridges damaged during the war.

***Railroad rehabilitation projects progress in Maniema and Katanga provinces.*** USAID/OFDA implementing partners Food for the Hungry International (FHI), CARE, CONCERN, and CRS have progressed in the rehabilitation of various sections of the Maniema-Katanga railroad line. USAID/OFDA field reports indicate that brush clearing work is complete from Kindu to towns 60 km south, and work has already begun on the Zofu bridge, critical to restoring the railroad line's connection with Kindu. Restoring train service from Kindu to Katanga will enable residents to trade agricultural produce for clothes and medicine and enable humanitarian assistance to be delivered more cheaply than via plane.

***Insecurity in Katanga Province provokes population displacement.*** Between January and March 2004, a dispute between Mai-Mai factions led to the displacement of an estimated 20,000 residents in the town of Kitenge, on the rail line north of Kabongo, 700 km north of Lubumbashi, Katanga Province. Although FAC troops arrived in April to restore stability, USAID/OFDA field reports indicate that the resulting upheaval instead increased the number of displaced residents to 30,000. From April 6 to 9, clashes between Mai-Mai and FAC forces in Kahongo and Monene, 15 km from Manono, led an unknown number of residents to flee temporarily. According to UN OCHA, Mai-Mai factions have no incentive to disarm as the FAC lacks the capacity to provide for new soldiers and is only slowly integrating Mai-Mai that have demobilized.

***DRC refugees in Zambia slowly return to Pweto, Katanga Province.*** In mid-March 2004, fear of renewed fighting led up to 1,000 DRC residents to flee Pweto to seek shelter at Kilwa island, on the Zambian side of the border. According to USAID/OFDA field reports, the presence of Mai-Mai soldiers caused residents to flee, but no fighting ever took place. Pweto has been safe since the withdrawal of FDR troops in October 2002, although the return of refugees from neighboring Zambia slowed in January 2004 when FAC soldiers arrived and began to prey upon the local population. In addition, USAID/OFDA partner United Methodists Committee on Relief (UMCOR) stated that poor road conditions are the main constraint to travel along the Pepa-Pweto-Kilwa axis to southern Katanga.

***Returning IDPs and refugees require assistance.*** Even as insecurity continues to threaten stability in eastern DRC, some IDPs are returning home. During March 2004, 45,000 IDPs returned to Katoyi, North Kivu Province, and, in Kabalo, Katanga Province, 25,000 residents returned. In Ituri District, an additional 9,000 IDPs returned to Nyankunde, site of a September 2002 massacre, and an estimated 6,000 DRC refugees returned voluntarily from Uganda to the Mahagi area. In April, 4,000 DRC refugees returned from Burundi to Luberizi and Mutarule, South Kivu Province. A gradual return of the 100,000 Ituri IDPs staying in camps in the Beni area of North Kivu has now begun, and USAID/OFDA partner Première Urgence, with a base in southern Ituri, is distributing seeds and tools to families who have been able to return to their land. A return of the majority of the Ituri IDPs is expected in July when the school year ends.

***Food security needs reassessed.*** From March 22 to April 2, 2004, a USAID Team Comprised of USAID's Mission in the DRC (USAID/DRC), USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), and USAID's Regional Economic Development Services Food Security Office conducted an assessment in the DRC to explore opportunities to begin transitioning from purely emergency food assistance and to increase linkages with USAID/DRC's Integrated Strategic Plan. Although emergency needs continue in many areas, the team found opportunities for retargeting food assistance toward recovery and rehabilitation-oriented activities, linking in with livelihoods support, asset protection, and sustainable agriculture.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

On October 6, 2003, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks re-declared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$11.4 million in emergency assistance to the DRC. USAID/OFDA provides emergency assistance in the health and nutrition sectors, supplies emergency shelter and household equipment to IDPs and returnees, contributes

to the transportation of humanitarian personnel and materials, and supports the return of agricultural production in areas where stability has been restored.

USAID/OFDA's projects and programs target conflict-affected areas with the highest malnutrition and mortality rates, and encourage implementing NGOs to expand into new areas as security permits. USAID/OFDA supports programs that build local capacity to promote the development of sustainable livelihoods. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports two Program Officers in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation and make program recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington, D.C.

To date in FY 2004, USAID/FFP has authorized 35,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$31 million, for WFP. During FY 2004 to date, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided more than \$2.7 million for a multi-faceted program to support the DRC's transition to peace. Through its Community-Focused Reintegration Program, USAID/OTI assists in the re-socialization and reintegration of conflict-affected youths. USAID/OTI's media program supports Radio Okapi to increase access to balanced and accurate information on the political transition processes. USAID/OTI also supports Search for Common Ground's Voices of Children project, which produces radio programs by and for children affected by war.

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State has provided \$48.0 million to UNHCR unearmarked for Africa, and \$34.3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) unearmarked for Africa, a portion of which supports UNHCR and ICRC programs in the DRC.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
AAH/USA	Health and food security	South Kivu and Katanga	\$300,000
AirServ International	Humanitarian air flights	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
CARE	Non-food items	Maniema	\$61,084
CRS	Non-food items	Maniema	\$1,106,208
GAA	Food security, non-food items, road rehabilitation	Ituri, North Kivu	\$1,550,711
GOAL	Health, nutrition	South Kivu	\$521,548
IMC	Health	Bunyakiri, South Kivu	\$256,779
MERLIN	Health	North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema	\$259,165
Solidarités	Health and water/sanitation	North Kivu	\$440,578
UNICEF	Health and assistance to rape victims	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
World Vision	Health	North Kivu	\$547,638
Administrative Costs		Kinshasa	\$712,488
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$11,456,199</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	35,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$31,091,071 <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$31,091,071</b>
<b>USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE</b>			
Search for Common Ground	Community-Focused Reintegration Program, Radio Okapi, Voices of Children	Countrywide	\$2,781,784
<b>TOTAL USAID/OTI .....</b>			<b>\$2,781,784</b>
<b>USAID/DG ASSISTANCE</b>			
IRC	Assistance to rape victims	North and South Kivu	\$1,788,688
<b>TOTAL USAID/DG.....</b>			<b>\$1,788,688</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2004 .....</b>			<b>\$47,117,742</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of May 3, 2004.<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.


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